

They should have read the "Acts of The Apostles" and see how the Holy spirit places the burden on all alike.

This congregation had not been taught that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." They had received of their pastor all he had. His time, talent, comforts, even necessities of his family. Yet they are *poor* and *complaining*. Why? Because they did not *give* that they might receive. I will venture the assertion, that had this church helped their minister, with the physical necessities of life, and tried to make his family as comfortable as themselves, They would have been *richer*, and certainly happier, than they now are.

I asked my informant if the minister, ever said anything to his congregation about giving? No, said he, he was timid, and was afraid of giving offense to the members. "Alas! My brother," and now they are *offensively* sorry, that he *did not thus offend them*.

What did that church lack? They evidently lacked *Religion*, "who so hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 1 John 3:17.

Who was to blame?

Do I hear you say, a *timid* minister? Yes perhaps, and let me add, an *intimidating* church.

First. My brethren, let us seek the old time guidance of the Holy Spirit. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and spoke with *boldness*."

Pastors must be bold in the Lord, must not *covet* the applause of men.

This minister above mentioned, in order to avoid possible offense to his congregation impoverished, and very nearly ruined their church, and is himself now out of the vineyard of the Lord. The Lord could not use him long, because he did not preach "the whole gospel." Giving is not less gospel, than repentance or baptism. *Preach giving*. Do not let our members sell their souls for *farms* and gold. If you do my brother minister, they will accuse you at the judgment bar of God.

Now what is wanted to right these evil conditions that obtain in some of our churches?

First. Churches that want pastors, be in *earnest*. Go down into your *pocket*, and *help your pastor*. Be religious as deep as your pocketbook, and if you are poor God will make you rich.

Second. Brother ministers go forth trusting God, and preach the "*Whole Gospel*." Do not be afraid of your salary. Be a good "Steward of God, preach the manifold riches of His grace, and He will give unto you all things and the brethren you serve will bless you because you are full of the Holy Ghost, and are bold.

"Oh, that we might *forget self*," and and serve the flock of God. Not to please the covetous, but to save them, knowing that upon our ministry hangs many precious souls.

"Sanctified by the Word of God."—"Christ lives in us"—"to will and to do His pleasure."

Our Young People

What Message Did Christmas Bring You?

Isa 53:1-12.

Topic for Dec. 26.—(A Christmas song service suggested)

Now we come to the last consecration meeting of the year. It is the hallowed Christmas time when Satan is chained for a little season and people turn to him whose advent has revolutionized the world and taught men how to lose sight of self in the service of others. We think of the great gift of all gifts which God gave to the world, out of his great love and the thought reacts upon us as we turn to gladden the hearts of others with some token of love. A song service is suggested for this meeting. The music committee of each local society with the leader can best arrange for this.

It is the time to sing and be happy and the meeting should be full of song. Some Scripture helps are given below for private study or use in the meeting as time permits.

I think the 53rd chapter of Isaiah has more of the gospel in it than any other Old Testament chapter. A verse might be given to each of twelve persons for comment and the fulfillment may be shown by the New Testament references given.

Verse 1, John 12:37, 38. V. 2, Mark 9:12. V. 3, Heb. 4:15; John 1:10, 11. V. 4, Matt. 8:17; Heb. 9:28; 1 Peter 2:24. V. 5, 1 Peter 3:18; 2:24. V. 6, 1 Peter 2:25. V. 7, Matt. 27:12-14. V. 8, Matt. 26:57; 27:1. V. 9, Matt. 27:38, 57, 58; Luke 23:14, 15. V. 10, II Cor. 5:21; Rom. 6:9. V. 11, John 17:3. V. 12, Phil. 2:9; 1 John 2:1.

Others may open discussion on the following topics to be followed by anyone who has a thought worthy of utterance.

1. What Christ's life on earth means to us, John 14:7-9; 17:3; Rom. 5:10; John 13:15; 1 John 2:6.
2. What his death brought us, Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:22; 1 John 3:16; 1:7.
3. What his present life is to us, 1 John 5:11; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 7:25; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 4:13; II Cor. 1:4.

What can we learn from his name? Matt. 1:21. From his manger? Luke 2:17; from his welcome song? Luke 2:8-14; from Simeon? Luke 2:25-32; from the wise men? Matt. 2:9-12.

Let the pastor make clear, 1 Tim. 3:16.

FOR MEDITATION

What would the world be without Christ? What would your life be?

What is man that God should be thus mindful of him?

How ought our increased knowledge of God affect our attitude toward him? Ponder this thought deeply—He best serves his God who serves his generation best.

What practical things can we do to pass along our blessings to others?

A CHRISTMAS OF GIVING

Why not all the K. C. and C. E. societies do as the Juniors at Warsaw who are each preparing a gift for the poor. A box containing all of these will be sent to the city or distributed among those who have few friends to remember them at this time. We learn giving by actual giving better than by teaching or getting.

THE FOURTH WISE MAN

There is a story that a fourth wise man came seeking the Christ-child but was misdirected by some

Buddhist priests and missed the other three. He, too, brought gifts, but as he wandered about searching he found cases of poverty and sorrow and need of all kinds which touched him and little by little he spent all his valuable gifts until he became old, still seeking Christ and helping men. As he lay down for his last sleep he beheld in rapture the Christ at his side and heard the words "Lo, all thy life thou hast seen me and known me for inasmuch as ye have ministered unto the least of these my brethren ye have ministered unto me."

C. F. YODER.

The closer we are bound to Christ, the Vine, by consecrated love and constant prayer, and the more we seize the constant daily opportunities to show his tender, loving spirit in our lives, the more we may have the joy of bearing fruit for the Master.

The Mission Field

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3. Do Not Say.		09
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6. Choice Extracts—(Meyer.)		05
		87

The books, together with other literature, such as circulars giving full particulars how and why to organize and read, description of books, etc., can be had by addressing Rev. C. F. Yoder, Warsaw, Ind. Circles should be organized in every congregation.

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WASHINGTON CITY MISSION

This time I come with a most joyful message. I am unable to find words to tell the joy it has brought to me.

For a long time many of us have been waiting for an open door to the foreign field, and most of all for the church to be willing and ready with laborers to enter upon the work when that door opens.

God's voice has been calling, (Isa. 6:8) "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?"

One of the little band of His chosen ones in our nation's capital has heard that voice and has answered, "Here am I; send me."

The seraphim with the live coal from the altar has come and touched the lips of our dear sister and co-laborer in the gospel, Vianna Detwiler. There is no uncertain sound about this.

The divine call, distinct and clear, has come to her, from the Macedonian field and with her whole heart and soul she has responded.